

# IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

**News You Can Use**

**No. 30 Spring 2004**

*Is your city a Tree City USA?*

*Check the list on page 3.*

## **Coordinator's Column**

### **Funding—Part III**

My last two columns have been about language in the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Bill. This legislation funds many programs, including the National Urban and Community Forestry Program. Since Idaho receives most of its funding for U&CF from this program, this legislation is of great significance to us. Even though the original language of the bill was moderated at the request of many of us, when the act was passed it still directed the Forest Service to provide alternatives to the current formula used to allocate funding to states. At least one of the alternatives is to direct more funds to states with large urban areas.

A proposed formula was released for comment in January and, if implemented as is, will result in a significant cut in funding to Idaho. This is because the proposed formula allocates funds based predominantly on urban-sized populations. This affects Idaho communities since we have no Chicagos or Bostons. Less would be available to our more rural state for grants, community forestry assistance and education. The Idaho Department of Lands and colleagues in other states in our region continue to encourage a broader vision of urban and community forestry nationally, emphasizing its value to communities of *all* sizes.

This doesn't have to be bad news. It's an opportunity for all of us to promote our successes and our needs. This is critical. Let your city, state and federal leaders know why community forestry is important in your city. Explain to them the value in receiving a community forestry grant or the assistance that Gerry Bates, Debbie Cook or Sue Izard has provided. When this information comes from those who have benefited from the program, it means a lot. The formula is being revised now, so there is no better time to let the people who provide our funding know this is an important program.

If you would like additional information or details on the formula, please call or send me an e-mail. Working together, we can continue to make our communities more attractive and healthier, safer and productive places to live and work. Once again, I appreciate your efforts and will continue to

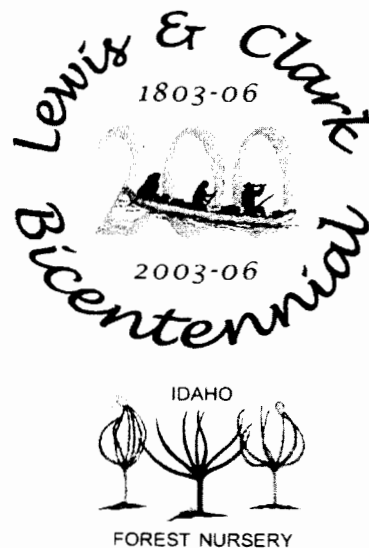
*(continued on page 2)*

## **Commemorate the Bicentennial With An Idaho Tree & Shrub Package**

Idaho was one of the most important areas for botanizing as Lewis & Clark made their way to the Pacific and back. Overall, they collected specimens of some 211 plant species and are credited with adding approximately 175 to the scientific literature. About one fourth of the plants collected that still exist in herbaria or museums today (about 50 in all) were obtained during the expedition's long encampment at Kamiah in the spring of 1806.

To help commemorate Idaho's connection with the Corps of Discovery, the University of Idaho Forest Nursery has produced a special Bicentennial Package of ten trees, shrubs and one ground cover plant that were named and described by the explorers. One each of the following is included: black twinberry, golden currant, kinnikinnick, Lewis syringa (Idaho's state flower), ponderosa pine, redosier dogwood, Rocky Mountain maple, serviceberry, western larch, and woods rose. A fact sheet about the plants and instructions for planting are included in the package. Cost is \$25 plus tax and shipping.

To order, phone 208/885-3888 or email [seedlings@uidaho.edu](mailto:seedlings@uidaho.edu). What a great way to help commemorate the bicentennial during 2003-2006.



(Comments continued from pg.1)

work hard on your behalf.

— David Stephenson  
Community Forestry  
Coordinator

Editor's Note: Comments are best faxed to members of our Congressional delegation. If you are familiar with the U&CF grant program, your insights could help save future funding for Idaho communities. You can fax comments to:

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(208/343-2458)

Michael Crapo

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## IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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### Field Offices

**North Idaho:** Sue Izard, C. F. Ass't., P.O. Box 10003, Moscow, ID 83843. Ph. 208/892-8543.

**Southwest Idaho:** Debbie Cook, C. F. Ass't., 3117 N. Penny Royal, Boise, ID 83713. Ph. 208/377-2938.

**Southeast Idaho:** Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., 2445 John Adams Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Ph. 208/522-5964.

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## Tool Kits Available

The Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program has several "tool kits" available at no cost. These packages of material are intended to help you with specific problems related to community trees and their management. Whether you are starting a tree board and tree program, or improving and strengthening an existing one, this information can be of help. Contact IDL at the address in the masthead and request a summary sheet, or ask for one of these specific kits:

- Program Planning (Basic overview of planning and working with tree boards)
- Ordinance Kit (How to write tree ordinances; samples included)
- Tree Planting & Care (Basics on how and what trees to plant, and how to prune)
- Building Around Trees (How to protect trees during construction)
- Tree City USA Kit (What the program is, and how to qualify)
- Idaho 'Plant-a-Memory' Program Kit (Help for getting more trees planted at minimal cost)
- Urban & Community Forestry Grants (Ideas for obtaining financial assistance)



## Soft Touch Communication

When Lewiston, Idaho, had problems with street trees needing to be pruned, the old procedure was for the city code enforcement officer to send the home owner a legalistic letter ordering them to remove the offending limbs or else...

"All this did was make people mad," says Lewiston city forester Mike Bowman. So Mike and the city manager decided to try a different approach. The result was doorknob hangers with cartoon-type art that explain the need to prune limbs 9 feet over sidewalks and 14 feet above streets. Another doorknob hanger

targets the need to water young trees. The message on each is friendly and explanatory, including "thanks" for helping and a phone number for contacting the city forester with questions. The Tree City USA logo is also included.

Mike carries the doorknob hangers in his pickup and uses them as he spots problems. He has also enlisted the cooperation of the city engineer who does likewise. Another ally is the driver of the street sweeper. Low limbs are a real plague to his operations, so one day this spring he and Mike drove the streets and placed 400 of the notices on door knobs.

"Communication is always the biggest problem," says Mike. "Using this method and promoting cooperation works a lot better in our town than trying to jam things down people's throats." The results of the doorknob hangers have been extremely effective in Lewiston. The idea of this low-key, highly-targeted form of communication has enormous potential in community forestry. Most copy shops and printing establishments have blank forms of various sizes and colors, and the cost is quite reasonable.



## How to Test Your Soil

Prior to selecting species to plant, it is a good idea to know the characteristics of the soil at the planting site. Some important things are observable. For example, is the site usually wet or always dry? Is it sunny or shady? Are there power lines overhead or other space considerations? Others such as pH may be tested with reasonable accuracy with do-it-yourself kits available at nursery stores. However, for accurate pH analysis, tests of bulk density, or to determine the deficiency of trace elements or the need for fertilizing with nitrogen and macro elements such as potassium or magnesium, a professional soil analysis is needed.

(continued on page 3)

## Award Winners!

### Idaho's Tree City USA Communities

Congratulations to Idaho's 68 communities that have qualified this year for Tree City USA awards from The National Arbor Day Foundation. The total includes one county and one Air Force base along with municipalities ranging from Samaria (pop. 197) to Boise (pop. 191,000). The total number is up from 61 Tree Cities last year and 50 the year before. Now 91 percent of Idaho's population lives in a Tree City USA and a little more than one third of all our municipalities are award winners. We hope the rest of the state joins this honor roll soon. To find out how to qualify, contact any of the Community Forestry Field Offices listed in the masthead.

Shown below next to each Tree City USA is the number of years the community has won the award. An asterisk means that a Tree City USA Growth Award has been earned for going above and beyond the four standards necessary for Tree City USA designation. First-year communities are shown in bold type.

Aberdeen (5)	Lewiston* (16)
American Falls (4)	Mackay (7)
Ammon (2)	Malad* (5)
Arco (4)	McCall (3)
Ashton (2)	<b>Menan</b>
Bellevue (2)	Meridian (2)
Blackfoot (4)	Moscow* (11)
Boise* (26)	Mountain Home (6)
Buhl* (7)	Mt. Home AF Base (7)
Burley (4)	Nampa* (6)
Caldwell (25)	New Plymouth (4)
Challis (4)	<b>Nezperce</b>
Chubbuck (2)	Nez Perce County (3)
Coeur d'Alene (20)	Orofino* (4)
<b>Deary</b>	Payette* (5)
Downey* (7)	Pocatello* (7)
Driggs (2)	Post Falls* (7)
Dubois (2)	Rockland (5)
Eagle* (12)	Rupert* (4)
Emmett (3)	Salmon (2)
Filer* (5)	Samaria (7)
Garden City (4)	Sandpoint (8)
Hagerman (3)	Shelley (3)
Hayden* (2)	Smelterville (2)
Heyburn (7)	Soda Springs (3)
Idaho Falls (12)	<b>St. Anthony</b>
Inkom (5)	Sugar City (2)
<b>Iona</b>	Twin Falls* (6)
Jerome* (6)	Ucon (4)
Kamiah* (4)	<b>Wallace</b>
Kellogg* (6)	Weiser (3)
Kendrick (7)	<b>Wendell</b>
<b>Kimberly</b>	
Kuna (13)	
Lapwai (8)	
Lava Hot Springs (3)	



TREE CITY USA

## Calendar

### June 3-4

**Idaho Community Forestry Council Meeting**, Safari Inn, Boise, ID (Contact: Idaho Dept. of Lands - Community Forestry; see masthead)

### June 4 - 5

**2004 Pacific Northwest Community Trees Conference ('Developing Community Canopy: Visions of Greener Communities')**, Double Tree Lloyd Center, Portland, OR (Contact: Pacific Northwest International Society of Arboriculture at [www.pnwisa.org/CTC04.pdf](http://www.pnwisa.org/CTC04.pdf))

### June 28 - 30

**Community Forestry at its Best National Conference**, Lied Lodge and Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE (Contact: The National Arbor Day Foundation at 402/474-5655 or [www.arborday.org/programs/conferencelist.html](http://www.arborday.org/programs/conferencelist.html))

### June 28 - 29

**Touch Trees With Claus Mattheck**, Seattle, WA (Contact: IML, Inc. at [www.imlusa.com](http://www.imlusa.com))

### August 7 - 11

**80<sup>th</sup> International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show**, David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA (Contact: ISA at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com))

### September 26 - 29

**PNW-ISA 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, ID (Contact: PNW-ISA at 503/874-8263 or [www.pnwisa.org/conference.html](http://www.pnwisa.org/conference.html))

## Upcoming Arborist Certification Exams

June 5, Twin Falls, ID (morning exam)

Sept. 26, Coeur d'Alene, ID (afternoon exam)

Oct. 2, Pocatello, ID (morning exam)

For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217/355-9411 or email [info@pnwisa.org](mailto:info@pnwisa.org).

*(Test Your Soil continued from pg.2)*

Help with soil analyses may be found at commercial laboratories. Another resource is the University of Idaho Analytical Sciences Laboratory. This is a teaching laboratory that directs its services and research support to other units of the university, government agencies and its contractors, agricultural producers, and nonprofit organizations. For more information, including a price list and information on how to collect and ship samples, phone 208/885-7081 or write to the lab at P.O. Box 442203, Moscow, ID 83844-2203.



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# Tree tip



*What's wrong with this picture?*

*Hint: Where are the trees?*

## Swales are Swell

Bioinfiltration swales are intentionally-created depressions intended to allow initial rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces to percolate into the soil. They can be planted with grass and other vegetation for aesthetic and practical benefits.

- \* By capturing the first half-inch of storm water runoff, approximately 90 percent of the contaminant load from roads, parking lots and other surfaces can be stopped from entering creeks and lakes.
- \* Potential flooding can be moderated.
- \* Runoff can be put to use watering vegetation and helping to recharge aquifers.

The benefits of swales can be enhanced by planting appropriate shade trees. In the pictured site, developers are said to have misunderstood and thought that trees were prohibited. However, city engineers and other officials state that trees are welcome. Better still, broad swales with no overhead lines make ideal planting sites for large-maturing species that provide the maximum benefits in heat reduction and long life.